

MR1197-439  
Appl. No. 09/769,478  
Amendment dated 16 December 2003  
Responsive to Office Action dated 3 October 2003

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

This case has been carefully reviewed and analyzed in view of the Official Action dated 3 October 2003. Responsive to the rejections made in the Official Action, Claim 1 has been amended to clarify the combination of elements which form the invention of the subject Patent Application and Claim 2 has been canceled by this Amendment.

In the Official Action, the Examiner objected to the Specification due to numerous grammatical errors found therein. Accordingly, the Specification has been amended to correct the grammatical errors that were found therein. Additionally, the Title has been changed to be consistent with the amended Claim. It is believed that the subject matter disclosed in the amended Specification paragraphs was previously disclosed in the original Specification and Claims, as filed, and the accompanying Drawing Figures. No new matter has been added by these changes.

In the Official Action, the Examiner objected to Claim 1 due to an informality therein. Accordingly, Claim 1 has been amended to correct the informality kindly noted by the Examiner.

In the Official Action, the Examiner rejected Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102, as being anticipated by Helbig, et al., U.S. Patent #5,453,655. The Examiner stated that the reference disclosed a bulb structure, shown in Fig. 7, that included a pair of conducting wires 47 in the bulb, a filament 44, and two fuses 46 therebetween in parallel.

Before discussing the reference relied upon, it is believed beneficial to first briefly review the structure of the invention of the subject Patent Application, as now claimed. The invention of the subject Patent Application is directed to a Christmas lamp structure. The lamp includes a bulb, a pair of conducting wires in the bulb, a filament electrically connected between the pair of conducting wires within the bulb, and at least two fuses electrically connected in parallel between the pair of conducting wires within the bulb to shunt the filament.

In contradistinction, the Helbig, et al. reference is directed to a single-based incandescent lamp structure. The lamp referred to by the Examiner includes an outer bulb 42 within which is disposed a lamp bulb 41 held in position by a carrier 48. The lamp bulb 41 has a filament 44 that is connected to conductive elements 45 disposed within the bulb. The Molybdenum foils 45 that are the connecting elements within the bulb are electrically connected to the connecting leads 47 through a pair of fuse elements 46. Thus, the fuse elements 46 **are electrically connected in series with the filament 44.**

Therefore, the reference fails to disclose at least two fuses electrically connected in parallel between the pair of conducting wires within the bulb to shunt the filament, as now claimed. As the reference fails to disclose each and every one of the elements of the invention of the subject Patent Application, as now claimed, it cannot anticipate that invention. Further, as the reference teaches away from the structure of the invention of

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the subject Patent Application, placing fuse elements in series, rather than shunting the filament, it cannot make obvious that invention either.

For all the foregoing reasons, it is now believed that the subject Patent Application has been placed in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

FOR: ROSENBERG KLEIN & LEE



David I. Klein  
Registration #33,253

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3458 Ellicott Center Drive, Suite 101  
Ellicott City, MD 21043  
(410) 465-6678